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TUESDAY
MAY 18, 1954

Met the burglar alarm experts at our Georgetown house this morning. It seemed in satisfactory condition, with no evident signs of leaks or damage.

Arrived at the Department just in time for meeting in Foster's office. We sent off a stiff telegram to Paris for Dillon's comments, proposing that the French Government inform the U. S. Government in writing of its intention promptly to take certain measures designed to ratify the EDC Treaty. There would also be a note advising them, if the treaty is not ratified, the U.S. and U.K. intend to take steps to restore sovereignty to Western Germany.

Had a long talk with Foster about the nature of alliances, reappraisal of policies, etc. Continued this with Bowie at lunchtime, and afterwards during a walk along the Potomac.

Things are in a terrible tangle -- our allies weak and undecided, ourselves subjected to divers pressures. Listening in as I am doing is instructive and stimulating; the issues involved are of a magnitude and complexity quite frightening. I shall attempt to make some notes for Bob Bowie on possible lines of action and organization to unite the Western nations more effectively. So stated, the problem does not sound especially formidable; however, when one seriously considers what can be done it seems almost unsolvable. The free world, lacking the monolithic direction of the Soviets, is uncemented.

Stopped in to see my old friend Sidney Kramer at his bookstore -- he, for one, is undisturbed by international storms.

Dined tonight at the Doug MacArthurs'. The Merchants, Bonbrights, Mark Sullivans, and Mrs. Walker were there. Wahwee was in top form, and it was [redacted] enjoyable. Lots of discussion about Senator McCarthy, all adverse.

Before going to dinner I had a talk with Herschel Johnson, who is staying at 1718 H Street. He is deeply resentful over the manner in which he was retired from the Foreign Service after his many years as Ambassador in Brazil, where he was enormously popular.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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